Chief. KE

Chief, Berlin Operations Base

INFO: COM, BONN, PULL

** 19 5 1953

CALL/CADORY/Operational

CAMLET - Resumption Pres Exchange News Media

Bef: SPRAN-4347

- 1. CAMLET is concerned that the SKK may decide to spring on the Western Allies a resumption of free exchange of newspapers between East and West as originally provided for in the Kulturabkemmen concluded between the Allies and the USSR during the Moscow Conference in September 1947.
- 2. The agreement was in fact implemented by both sides for almost a year. It remained in force until the currency reform was introduced, the Seviets faithfully abiding by its terms until the break.
- 3. About two weeks ago CAMLET received the visit of a man whom he described to me as the former manager of the distribution office of his (CAMLET's) newspaper in Exrlin-Weissensee. This individual, whose mame CAMLET did not volunteer (Herr X.) and for whose identity I did not press him, had stayed behind in Weissensee with the approval of the SFD ("mit unserem Wissen"). Even after the de facto abrogation of the exchange agreement he continued to pick up copies of CAMLET's newspaper just inside the Western Sector (Gesundbrunnen) and to seal them sub resa in East Berlin. The number of copies thus sold CAMLET estimates at 4000 per day. He allegedly was able to get away with this violation of Eastern restrictions on the strength of a written authority from the SEK to purchase 450 cepies per day for Soviet perusal.
- 4. The Soviet contact of I. is one Captain Jugachevsky (phon.). In the course of his conversation with CAMLET, X. intimated that he had been commissioned by Jugachevsky to prepare an estimate of the circulation of DDR newspapers in West Berlin and West Germany should the existing restrictions be lifted. CAMLET either was under the impression or was told by I. in so many words that Jugachewsky would be interested in CAMLET's views on the Subject.

4 May 1953

glp:bjt Distribution:

3 - COM

1 - BOKON

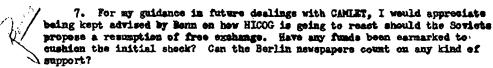
1 - PULL 1 - BOB SECORTY WITH YTHRODES

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B LAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACTEATE 2007

COPY

11/16

- 5. CAMLET reasons that the Soviets could maneuver the Allies into a tight corner by suddenly proposing a resumption of free exchange. The Allies could not very well say no. The Soviets would immediately push the sale of the "Machtexpress" (in the meanwhile deceased) and the "Berliner Zeitung" whose makeup gives it an aura of Western respectability. CAMLET is not particularly werried about the competitive threat emanating from "Meues Deutschland" and "Taegliche Rundschau". Not only could the DDR underbid Western newspapers: 15 Ost Pfennig versus 15 West Pfennig, but Western newspapers in the DDR would sell at an insurmountable competitive disadvantage.
- 6. Typically enough the related incident was picked up by CIC, Regian VIII and passed on with all the trappings of a highly claudestine transaction, subtly implying that CAMLET may be engaged in negotiating a billateral deal with the Soviets. In actual fact, CAMLET almost immediately notified the Infernation Branch of Public Affairs Division. He is everything but happy about this development inassuch as he fears that it might eatch him and other Western newspaper publishers with their financial pants down.



Approved by:

SECURITY INTO MATION